

REMARKS

Reconsideration is requested. Claims 14-31 are pending. Claims 28-31 have been added based on claim 26 and made dependent from the objected to claims 20, 21, 24 and 25, respectively. No new matter has been added. Rejoinder and allowance of the method claims 26-31, upon allowance of the product claims from which they depend, is requested.

The Section 102 rejection of claims 14, 17-18 and 22-23 over JP 06192290-A is believed to be obviated by the above amendments. Specifically, claim 14 has been amended to be patentable over the cited art. Claim 17 has been amended based on the disclosure on page 6 of the application and are submitted to be patentable over the cited art. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 14, 17-18 and 22-23 over JP 06192290-A are requested.

The Section 101 rejection of claims 14-19 and 22-23 is obviated by the above amendments. The claims have been amended as suggested by the Examiner. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Section 101 rejection are requested.

Claim 23 has been amended to obviate the Rule 75 objection to the same. Claims 23 and 22 are no longer duplicates and withdrawal of the Rule 75 objection to claim 23 is requested.

The indication of the claims 20, 21, 24 and 25 contain allowable subject matter is acknowledged, with appreciate. See, page 6 of the Office Action dated February 25, 2003 (Paper No. 15). The indicated claims have been amended to be allowable and an indication of the allowability of, at least, claims 20, 21, 24, 25 and 28-31 is requested.

MÜLLER et al.

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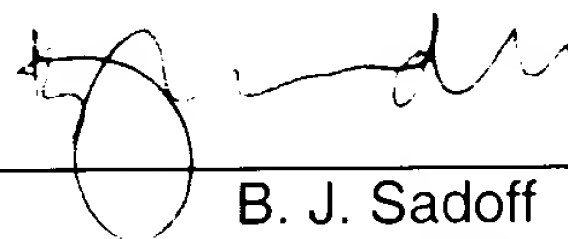
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The claims are submitted to be in condition for allowance and a Notice to that effect is requested. The Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned if anything further is required.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYTE P.C.

By: _____



B. J. Sadoff
Reg. No. 36,663

BJS:plb
1100 North Glebe Road, 8th Floor
Arlington, VA 22201-4714
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100